

# The Federal Plan for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

FISCAL YEAR 2007

FEDERAL COORDINATOR  
FOR  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

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FCM-P1-2006  
OCTOBER 2006  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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## PREFACE

Since 1965, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) has developed a Federal Plan that articulates the provision of meteorological services and the support for meteorological and related research by agencies of the Federal government. OFCM's 2007 Federal Plan provides Congress and the Executive Branch with a comprehensive compilation of proposed programs for fiscal year (FY) 2007 and a review of agency programs in FY 2006. The Federal Plan's narratives, timelines, and schedules are current as of August 2006.

The Federal Plan consists of an Executive Summary, three sections, and Appendices. The Executive Summary, which is written as a concise, stand-alone report, provides a high-level view of the Federal resources dedicated to meteorological programs and the achievements of those programs.

This year's feature article (Section 1) reviews three projects focused on tropical cyclone (TC) research and development (R&D) to improve the Nation's tropical cyclone forecast and warning service. After briefly reviewing the three projects, the article provides more details on one of the projects, the development of an OFCM-sponsored interagency strategic TC research plan. A revolution in the accuracy and utility of weather forecasts has occurred in the past several decades. This revolution has also improved forecasts and warnings for tropical cyclones. Nevertheless, further improvements to the Nation's tropical cyclone forecast and warning service are feasible, within reach, and valuable investments for our safety, security, and economic well-being. Whether called "hurricanes" (in the North Atlantic and in the Pacific off the coasts of the Americas), "typhoons" (in the Pacific west of the dateline), or other regional appellations, these severe cyclonic storms are causing increasing amounts of destruction, death, and injury primarily because both population density and economic infrastructure in coastal regions continue to increase. Tropical cyclone forecasting has been and continues to be a challenge. However, the capability to begin gaining skill in forecasting rapid intensity changes, better predicting hurricane structure, sea state and storm surge, and precipitation is now on the horizon much like improving track was a decade or so ago due to continued improvements in observational capabilities, and recent advancements in numerical weather prediction model physics and data assimilation systems.

Section 2 of the Federal Plan summarizes the resources requested in the President's FY 2007 Budget, compared with the resources appropriated by Congress for FY 2006. Section 3 contains departmental and agency narratives on programs for providing meteorological services and supporting research and development. It also describes relevant research funded by the National Science Foundation.

Appendix A describes the OFCM's coordination, program, and planning activities. Appendix B addresses the World Meteorological Organization's World Weather Program. Appendix C lists the feature articles published in previous Federal Plans. The acronyms and abbreviations used throughout this year's Federal Plan are defined in Appendix D. The inside front cover lists the current members of the Federal and Interdepartmental Committees for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research, which provide guidance and support for OFCM activities. The inside back cover diagrams the infrastructure through which the OFCM performs its coordinating mission.

Samuel P. Williamson's  
Signature

Samuel P. Williamson  
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological  
Services and Supporting Research



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# THE FEDERAL PLAN FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH, FISCAL YEAR 2007

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	vii
Section 1. ROADMAP FOR TROPICAL CYCLONE RESEARCH TO MEET OPERATIONAL NEEDS .....	1
Section 2. RESOURCE INFORMATION AND AGENCY PROGRAM UPDATES .....	7
Agency Obligations for Meteorological Operations and Supporting Research .....	7
Department of Agriculture .....	7
Department of Commerce .....	7
Department of Defense .....	16
Department of Homeland Security .....	20
Department of the Interior .....	20
Department of Transportation .....	20
Environmental Protection Agency .....	22
National Aeronautics and Space Administration .....	22
Nuclear Regulatory Commission .....	23
Agency Funding by Budget Category .....	24
Agency Funding by Service Category .....	24
Personnel Engaged in Meteorological Operations .....	24
Interagency Fund Transfers .....	30
Facilities/Locations for Taking Meteorological Observations .....	30
Section 3. AGENCY METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH PROGRAMS .....	35
Department of Commerce Weather Programs .....	35
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration .....	35
National Weather Service .....	35
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service .....	45
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research .....	85
National Ocean Service .....	103
NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations .....	107
Department of Defense Weather Programs .....	111
United States Air Force .....	111
United States Navy .....	125
United States Army .....	135
Department of Transportation Weather Programs .....	149
Federal Aviation Administration .....	149
Federal Highway Administration .....	159
Federal Railroad Administration .....	167

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Department of Agriculture Weather Programs .....	171
Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration	
Operational and Research Weather Programs .....	179
Department of Homeland Security Weather Programs .....	199
Department of the Interior Weather Programs .....	203
Department of State Climate and Atmospheric Programs .....	213
Environmental Protection Agency Weather Programs .....	215
National Aeronautics and Space Administration Weather Programs .....	219
Nuclear Regulatory Commission Weather Programs .....	229
National Science Foundation .....	231

## APPENDICES

A. FEDERAL COORDINATION AND PLANNING .....	233
B. WORLD WEATHER PROGRAM .....	249
C. LISTING OF PREVIOUS FEATURE ARTICLES .....	255
D. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....	257

## LIST OF TABLES

ES-1 Federal Budget for Meteorological Operations and Supporting Research, FY 2007 .....	vii
2.1 Meteorological Operations and Supporting Research Costs, by Agency .....	8
2.2 Agency Operational Costs, by Budget Category .....	25
2.3 Agency Supporting Research Costs, by Budget Category .....	26
2.4 Agency Operational Costs, by Service .....	27
2.5 Agency Supporting Research Costs, by Service .....	28
2.6 Personnel Engaged in Meteorological Operations .....	29
2.7 Interagency Fund Transfers for Meteorological Operations and Supporting Research .....	31
2.8 Facilities/Locations for Taking Meteorological Observations .....	33
3.1 Projected Satellite Launch Schedule .....	53
3.2 Trace Gas and Aerosol Products from Operational Polar-Orbiting Satellites .....	63
3.3 GOES-R Bands and Products .....	64
A.1 Current OFCM Publications .....	245